



USDA EGG MARKET NEWS REPORT

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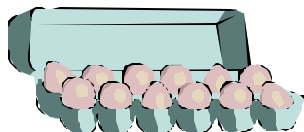
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



In the North Central and Eastern regions, prices were sharply higher to occasionally unchanged. Elsewhere, prices were unchanged. The market tone was steady to fully steady, mostly fully steady. Demand ranged fair to good, mostly moderate, with better interest centering around the occasional retail feature. Supplies were mostly adequate to instances tight, and seasonal confidence continued to be a factor in the market. Breaking stock offerings were irregular for the fair to fairly good demand. Light type fowl were sufficient for immediate needs.

NORTH ATLANTIC In Philadelphia, prices were unchanged to 8.5 cents higher on the larger sizes and unchanged to 4.5 cents higher for mediums; in Boston, prices were unchanged to 3 cents higher on extra large, unchanged to 2 cents higher on large, and unchanged for mediums, when based on previous week average prices. Prices paid to producers in New England were unchanged. The market tone was steady to fully steady. Demand ranged fair to good. Breaking stock offerings were generally adequate for the fair demand. Light type hens were usually adequate for slaughter needs.

NEW YORK Prices were unchanged on all sizes. The market tone was steady to fully steady. Demand was fair to good. Supplies were at least adequate and held with confidence.

CHICAGO All prices unchanged. Trade sentiment generally steady. Retail and food service movement fair to instances fairly good, best where features are a factor. Supplies mostly adequate.

MIDWEST Prices in Detroit and major Ohio and Wisconsin cities were sharply higher for large and medium and were not changed for small. Prices to producers in Iowa-Minnesota-Wisconsin and prices in Chicago were unchanged. The trade sentiment was steady to fully steady. Retail demand was fair to good. Food service movement was mostly moderate. Supplies were adequate to close for all sizes and were being held with confidence. Central States nest run breaking stock prices were higher. Demand was fair to fairly good for the mixed offerings. Schedules were full-time. Floor stocks were in balance to adequate. The trade sentiment was mostly steady to fully steady.

SOUTHERN In Atlanta and Florida, prices were sharply higher on the medium and larger sizes. Elsewhere, prices were unchanged. The market tone was fully steady. Trade sentiment was seasonally anticipant. Retail demand ranged fair to fairly good, but overall was mostly moderate entering the week. Supplies were about adequate to tight. The average price on Grade A or better white cartoned large eggs delivered to volume buyers in the Southern region for the week ending March 24, 2000, was 56.80 cents, 3.7 cents more than last week, but 21.03 cents less than the same week last year. Breaking stock supplies were usually adequate for the mostly fair and unaggressive demand. Light type fowl were sufficient for current needs.

WESTERN Prices in California 8 cents higher on jumbo, 9 cents higher on extra large and large, and 6 cents higher on medium and small; in the Northwest 7 cents higher on jumbo, 10 cents higher on extra large and large, and 7 cents higher on medium. The Pacific region inventory was 5% higher than last Monday with California up 11% and Oregon-Washington-Utah down 6%. Retailer demand moderate to good, best to cover features. Offerings light.

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, GRADE A AND US GRADE A WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR OR WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	EXTRA LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM
NORTHEAST CITIES			
Boston (Brown)	93-95	85-87	57-61
New York	70-72	67-70	51-54
Philadelphia	64.5-70	62.5-68	48-51
SOUTHERN CITIES			
Atlanta (1) (2)	61-62	59.5-61	43-44
Jackson (1)	71-72	68-69	52-53
Major Louisiana Cities (1)	68-81	65-79	49-63
MIDWEST CITIES			
Chicago	60-65	59-64	43-48
Detroit (2)	57-60	56-59	39-42
Major Ohio Cities (2)	58-63	57-61	40-45
Major Wisconsin Cities	61-68	59-66	43-50
WESTERN CITIES			
Houston (1)	74-76	72-73	55-57
California(Grade AA)(1)(3)	97	92	75
(1) - Prices reported weekly			
(2) - Delivered Warehouse			
(3) - Reported Invoice prices			

CALIFORNIA Prices 8 cents higher on jumbo, 9 cents higher on extra large and large, and 6 cents higher on medium and small. The California inventory was 11% higher than last Monday. Retailer demand moderate to good, best to cover features. Offerings light and inventories built with confidence. Small invoice price 55. Major weekend ads in Southern California: Large dozen free-79 with coupon, 100. Ads in Northern California: major- large dozen 89-129; smaller outlets- large dozen 99, 18 pack 149.

PRICES INVOICE, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	109
EXTRA LARGE	97
LARGE	92
MEDIUM	75
PRICES TO CONSUMERS MAJOR CHAINS, METROPOLITAN AREA, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.	
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	
	RANGE
JUMBO	229-289
EXTRA LARGE	219-279
LARGE	199-219
MEDIUM	187-199
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA	
	RANGE
JUMBO	219-269
EXTRA LARGE	199-239
LARGE	189-219
MEDIUM	139-179

NATIONAL RETAIL EGG PURCHASES REPORT Cooperators estimate orders for the week ending March 31, 2000 will decrease by 4 percent. Present week purchases for the week ending March 24, 2000 were 269,506 cases which was 9 percent below the prior week and 10 percent below estimates.

	CARTONED	LOOSE	TOTAL
Cases purchased present week.....	233,284	36,222	269,506

% change from the prior week.....	-11	+5	-9

Comparison figures are compiled on a matched plant basis. Purchases and estimates by 17 cooperators; 30 dozen cases or equivalent.

CENTRAL STATES BREAKING STOCK All prices were higher. Offerings were mixed from tight to fully adequate with demand fair to fairly good and asking prices steadily increasing. Breakers ran full schedules. Floor stocks balanced to adequate. Trade

sentiment mostly steady to fully steady

PRICES PAID TO 11:00 A.M., MATERIAL EXCHANGED, 30 DOZEN CASE EQUIVALENT, 48 LB. MINIMUM NET WEIGHT, DELIVERED TO BREAKERS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
NEST RUN	31-35	32-34
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	16-19	

CENTRAL STATES AREA:

AR,CO,IA,IL,IN,KS,LA,MI,MN,MO,NM,ND,NE,OH,OK,SD,TX,WI

SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN Prices were slightly lower compared to the past week. Demand for spent hens was moderate with current schedules adequate for needs. Trade sentiment was about steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *

FINAL PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 27-MAR-00

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	8.75-19.5	11-13	11.75

* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN Majority prices were unchanged to slightly lower than a week earlier. Demand was moderate for adequate offerings. Processing schedules were normal to about normal. Undertone was steady.

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *

FINAL PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 27-MAR-00

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	7-16.5	8.25-11.25	10.63

AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING TOO FEW TO REPORT
FOB PLANT TOO FEW TO REPORT

* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

WEEKLY SHELL EGG INVENTORY REPORT- AM Mar 27, 2000

STOCKS ON HAND AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING 1/
(30 DOZEN CASES-IN THOUSANDS)

		NO	SO	SO	5-Area		
	Northeast	CENT	CENT	Atl	Pacific		
Jumbo	Curr Wk	8.0	14.8	4.2	14.3	8.8	50.1
	Change	0.8	2.8	0.2	1.9	0.0	13%
Ex Lge	Curr Wk	30.2	37.7	12.6	29.3	29.6	139.4
	Change	5.2	7.5	4.5	-2.1	3.8	16%
Large	Curr Wk	74.0	103.5	46.3	75.5	91.0	390.3
	Change	8.1	30.7	9.9	10.7	8.5	21%
Medium	Curr Wk	13.6	32.0	13.3	18.0	23.1	100.0
	Change	-1.6	2.9	1.7	-8.6	4.2	-1%
Small	Curr Wk	4.6	5.4	2.4	8.6	3.6	24.6
	Change	0.7	1.8	0.3	-1.1	-0.7	4%
Misc	Curr Wk	4.3	14.2	9.4	14.9	8.1	50.9
	Change	-0.3	0.1	-0.6	4.4	1.4	11%
Ungraded	Curr Wk	38.6	79.5	16.3	32.2	41.7	208.3
	Change	5.2	5.2	1.4	-2.5	-7.4	1%
Total	Curr Wk	173.3	287.1	104.5	192.8	205.9	963.6
Percent	Change	12%	22%	20%	1%	5%	11%

TOTAL	Number of Cases	Percent Change	Number of Cooperators
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Shell Egg	963.6	11%	166
Shell Egg Breaking Stock	441.1	-3%	40

Total Shell Egg	1404.7	6%	206
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1/Information is supplied by a universe of 166cooperators who normally have stocks on hand each Monday A.M. and is on the basis of matched plants reporting in both the current and previous weeks. Sample does not represent total U.S. inventory but includes eggs packed for export when in cooperator's coolers.

No valid comparison can be made with year ago or previous months' figures due to changes in number of plants surveyed, holidays falling in different weeks or changes in size of plant operations.

CANADIAN EGGS MONTREAL: WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE TO RETAILERS (CANADIAN CENTS) GRADED IN CARTONS, AS REPORTED BY CANADA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 13, 2000

GRADE A	XLARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
	162	158.9	149.9	108.9

MINIMUM PRODUCER PRICES FOB FARM FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING MARCH 13, 2000 AS ESTABLISHED BY ONTARIO EGG AND FOWL PRODUCERS MARKETING BOARD.

GRADE A	XLARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
	126	126	116	76

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES — DAILY WTD AVERAGE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR MARCH 24, 2000**CURRENT LOADS** 13.00**FUTURE LOADS** 8.25**TOTAL LOADS** 21.25

		SE		NE		MW		LOADS				SC		NW		SW		LOADS	
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST			CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST		
GNR W 1	—	—	46.75	48.50	—	—	5.00		GNR W 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.00	
GL W J	—	—	60.00	62.00	57.50	—	2.00		GNR BR 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.00	
GL W XL	—	—	—	59.67	54.33	—	4.00		GL W J	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	69.00	1.00	
GL W LG	—	—	—	—	54.33	—	7.25		GL W XL	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	65.50	1.00	
GL W MD	—	—	—	—	33.00	—	1.00		GL W LG	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	63.67	3.00	
									GL W MD	37.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	43.50	2.00	

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT - MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED.

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES — WEEKLY (5-DAY) WTD AVE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR 03/18/00-03/24/00**CURRENT LOADS** 139.75**FUTURE LOADS** 91.25**TOTAL LOADS** 231.00

		SE		NE		MW		LOADS			SC	NW		SW		LOADS
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST			CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	
GNR W 1	44.00	51.05	43.43	47.18	45.11	47.11	90.00		GNR W 1	—	53.36	—	—	—	—	31.50
GNR W 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.00		GNR W 2	—	54.00	—	—	—	—	1.00
GNR W 3	—	—	—	—	34.50	36.00	6.00		GNR W 3	—	41.00	—	—	—	—	4.00
GNR W 4	—	22.00	—	—	—	—	2.00		GNR W 4	19.50	—	—	—	—	—	2.00
GNR BR 1	—	—	—	—	—	53.00	1.00		GNR BR 1	—	51.00	—	—	—	—	1.75
GL W J	—	—	60.00	62.00	57.50	—	2.00		GL W J	64.00	—	—	—	—	69.00	1.25
GL W XL	—	62.00	—	54.56	49.75	—	33.25		GL W XL	56.33	53.25	—	—	—	61.76	7.25
GL W LG	—	56.50	49.00	53.50	50.46	—	34.25		GL W LG	55.29	57.50	—	58.00	—	60.48	27.50
GL W MD	—	40.00	32.25	34.00	32.54	—	14.75		GL W MD	36.00	46.00	—	—	—	41.91	7.75
GL W SM	—	—	19.17	21.00	—	—	3.00		GL BR LG	50.00	—	—	—	—	58.00	1.00
NRBS - 48	36.00	—	31.00	32.00	—	34.17	28.25									
NRBS - 39	24.50	25.50	—	—	—	—	2.00									

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT - MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED.

NUMBER OF CASES OF EGGS SHIPPED TO CALIFORNIA 03/12/00 - 03/18/00

Origin State	CO	IN	IA	MI	MN	MO	OR	PA	SD	UT	TOTAL
N. CA	0	0	3,240	0	960	0	3,359	0	0	2,553	10,112
C. CA	0	0	1,700	0	0	0	240	428	0	0	2,368
S. CA	5,882	810	9,116	820	4,055	4,986	0	0	586	5,450	31,685
TTL STATE	5,882	810	14,056	820	5,015	4,986	3,599	428	586	8,003	44,165

SHIPPED TO MILITARY: 0

NEW ENGLAND

PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS, CASES EXCHANGED, GRADE YIELD BASIS, BROWN EGGS LOOSE, AT FARM, CENTS PER DOZEN.

JUMBO	EX-LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
112-115	74-77	66-69	40-43	16-19

DETROIT EGGS

PRICES TO FIRST RECEIVERS, CASES INCLUDED, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, 30 DOZEN CASES, WHITE EGGS LOOSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

JUMBO	EX-LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
65-68	56-62	54-59	37-42	23-27

IOWA-MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN

PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
40-42	25-27	13-15

NORTH CAROLINA EGGS

PRICES WEIGHTED AVERAGE, IN SMALL LOTS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, NEARBY RETAIL OUTLET, CENTS PER DOZEN.

LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
71.29	57.34	41.18

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT-FROZEN EGGS (In Thousands)

ON HAND	3/20/00	3/13/00	3/22/99
PACIFIC COAST	504	550	31
LOS ANGELES	386	421	5

HONOLULU, OAHU-WHITE SHELL EGGS PRICES DELIVERED TO RETAILERS, GRADE A STORE DOOR MARCH 21,2000:

	CARTONS	WTG AVG
EX-LARGE	149-155	153.43
LARGE	143-150	148.21
MEDIUM	124-135	132.33
SMALL	105-109	106.01

Receipts from the mainland: 3/12/00-3/18/00
30-dozen cases 3,148

Receipts from the mainland: 3/5/00-3/11/00
30-dozen cases 4,836

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